

REMARKS**I. Amendments to the Specification**

Support for the amendments to the specification and to the claims can be found in the application (including the specification, figures, claims) as originally filed, in the Examples, and in the original and amended claims.

As an initial matter, Applicant respectfully requests that the USPTO acknowledge the priority claims of the present continuation application. The amendments to the specification also include the amendment to the priority claim made by the Preliminary Amendment mailed December 8, 2003.

Unless otherwise specified, reference herein to Applicant's specification means the specification as filed originally in the parent.

Applicant has requested entry of the Sequence Listing, provided herewith in paper and electronic copies. A Statement in Support of Filing and Submissions in Accordance with 37 CFR 1.821-1.825, which declared that the content of the paper and the computer readable copies of the Sequence Listing submitted in accordance with 37 CFR 1.821 (c) and (e), respectively, were the same and that the submission, filed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.821 (g) did not introduce new matter, is submitted herewith. The entry of the Sequence Listing does not introduce new subject matter.

A Substitute Specification (marked and unmarked copies) is submitted herewith for the addition of sequence identifiers. A Statement That the Specification Contains No New Matter is also included. The entry of the Substitute Specification does not introduce new subject matter.

II. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 3, 25, 54-56, 58, 59, 62-64, 91 and 92 are hereby amended. Claims 9-14, 16, 17, 19-22, 28-35, 37-51, and 65-89 are hereby canceled without prejudice to their pursuit in an appropriate divisional or continuation application. Claims 1-8, 15, 18, 23-27, 36, 52-64, and 90-92 are pending in the application.

Support for the amendments to claims 3, 25, 54-56, 58, 59, 62-64, 91 and 92 may be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. The amendments to these claims were made primarily to reduce multiple dependencies or for technical reasons. No new subject matter has been added by virtue of the amendments to the claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all outstanding rejections have been addressed by this submission and that all the claims are in condition for allowance. If discussion of any amendment or remark made herein would advance this important case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned as soon as convenient.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the present application is respectfully considered in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Applicants hereby request a four-month extension of time for the Amendment and accompanying materials. If an additional extension of time is required, Applicants hereby request the Examiner to consider this a conditional petition for an extension of time. Although it is not believed that any additional fee (in addition to the fee concurrently submitted) is required to consider this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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